

CROW INDIAN TRIBE



Resources Report

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RECREATION

The Crow Indian Reservation's undisturbed character and dramatic features, including mountains, hills, ridges, bluffs, valleys, canyons, rivers and streams provide a setting for recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, boating, camping, picnicking, hiking and backpacking. The Crow Tribe requires recreationists who are not members of the Crow Tribe obtain licenses and permits for recreation on reservation lands. The permits and licenses are intended to control trespass in sensitive areas. Information is not available for levels of recreational activity on the reservation (*see Figure 20*).

The Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument is probably the most visited attraction on the reservation with over 400,000 people visiting it every year. The battlefield, which is located one mile south of Crow Agency on I-90, encompasses approximately 800 acres.. A battle re-enactment is held south of Hardin every year; this has become a large tourist draw for the Tribe.

The annual Crow Fair and Rodeo "Tepee Capital of the World", one of the largest powwows held in the United States, takes place at Crow Agency every August. There is lively competition dancing, drumming, and singing, as well as, food and craft concessions.

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area is a large recreational resource for the Tribe. The recreation area includes Yellowtail Dam and Bighorn Lake. The lake is 71 miles long starting in Wyoming and running into the Crow Reservation in Montana. This recreation area provides some of the finest fishing, water sports, and camping in the state of Montana (*see Figure 20*).

The Bighorn River fishery is nationally famous for its huge rainbow and brown trout. The fishery was created with construction of the Yellowtail Dam; this blue-ribbon trout water runs for a 12-mile stretch. This fishery water is cool and nutrient-rich. Fly fisherman flock to the best tail water fishery in North America, spending tens of millions of dollars annually (*see Figure 20*).

The Wolf Mountain Lookout is a federally owned recreation area encompassing approximately 120 acres. The Tribe and BIA jointly operate this recreation area (*see Figure 20*).

The Bozeman Trail and Fort C.F. Smith. The Bozeman Trail crosses the Bighorn River near Fort C.F. Smith, traces of which can still be found (*see Figure 20*).

The Reno, Benteen Battlefield, Garryowen, MT monuments commemorate the Indian victory over the seventh Calvary and are in conjunction with the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (*see Figure 20*).

The Medicine Wheel- Located between Sheridan and Lovell, Wyoming on a mountain almost 10,000 feet above sea level, is a large wheel measuring approximately 80 feet in diameter, approximately 245 feet in circumference at a central cairn. There are many legends and traditions explaining the Wheel's origin from Native Americans.

Chief Plenty Coups Park and Museum is located in Pryor. This museum and park preserves the log home of Chief Plenty Coups, the last chief of the Crow Indians and offers interpretive displays and picnic sites (*see Figure 20*).

The Bighorn Canyon cross-cuts a 1,000 ft. high fault segment of the Pryor Mountains. It is home to a herd of wild, free roaming horses believed to be descended from the first Spanish horses that may have arrived as early as the 1700s (*see Figure 20*).

The Bighorn Mountains are scenic wonderlands Bighorn Mountains on the Crow Reservation and northern Wyoming. Points of interest include Pretty Eagle Point and the Medicine Wheel in northern Wyoming (*see Figure 20*).